

## **Laurel Lake Being Repaired**

VDGIF has halted the draining of Laurel Bed Lake in Russell County. The lake was being drained due to seepage found during scheduled inspections. Extensive monitoring identified two areas where water is seeping through the lake's dam. Engineers had determined that lowering the lake level was necessary until the Department could find sufficient funds to complete repairs.

Funding for repairs was authorized by the Department's Board during approval of the budget at the June 3, 2008 meeting. The repairs are most effective if undertaken when water is in the lake. The proposed solution involves injection of chemical and concrete grout into the areas where seepage is occurring. The project is expected to be completed in October. Currently the lake level is down 11 feet and boat launching is by hand only as the ramp is not accessible. The fishing regulations have been re-established as in the past with catch and release for bass.

VDGIF Fisheries Division Director Gary Martel noted that Laurel Bed dam repair is the highest priority on the current list of Department dams requiring repairs. VDGIF is a special fund Agency, funded primarily from fishing, hunting, and boating fees, and there are not adequate funds, at this time, to make the necessary repairs and improvements to all of the Department's dams.